

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7027**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1326

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 31, 2012

**BILL AMENDED:** Jan 30, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Various Education Matters.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Rhoads

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Sen. Yoder

**BILL STATUS:** As Passed House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) *Criminal History Check*: This bill provides that an "expanded criminal history check," for purposes of education law, requires a national criminal history background check. It eliminates other types of permissible record searches under current law.

*Teacher of the Year*: This bill replaces the Ambassador for Education Program with provisions which allow a Teacher of the Year to serve one year of professional leave with the Department of Education or a postsecondary educational institution.

*Obsolete Programs*: The bill abolishes the following programs and entities concerning various education matters:

1. Technology Apprenticeship Grant Program.
2. Corporation for Educational Technology, including the Buddy System Project.
3. School Intervention and Career Counseling Development Program.
4. Education Consultant for Health and Physical Education.
5. Principal Leadership Academy.
6. School Grant Writing and Fund Raising Assistance Program.
7. Technology Preparation Task Force.
8. Research and Development Program concerning various studies and evaluations.
9. Educational Technology Council.
10. Teacher Quality and Professional Improvement Program.
11. Committee on Educational Attitudes, Motivation, and Parental Involvement.
12. Readiness Testing.

13. Student Services Programs.
14. Twenty-First Century Schools Pilot Program.
15. Anti-gang Counseling Pilot Program and Fund.
16. Department of education review of professional development programs.
17. Performance Based Awards.
18. ISTEP Program Citizens' Review Committee.
19. A requirement that a course in safety education be taught to eighth graders.

*ISTEP Test:* The bill deletes provisions concerning availability of ISTEP essay questions for inspection by students and parents.

The bill provides that: (1) a student's parent may request a rescoring of the student's responses to an ISTEP test, including the student's essay; or (2) a school may request a rescoring only if there is evidence that the test score is not accurate.

*School Bus Inspection & Registration:* This bill requires school bus inspectors to attach to the bus a certificate of inspection and document the certification in the School Bus Inspection Data Base. It changes the registration deadline for school bus owners who are not school corporations from July 29 to September 30.

The bill deletes obsolete provisions concerning testing schedules.

The bill deletes obsolete provisions concerning assessments at the conclusion of certain Core 40 courses.

The bill makes conforming changes.

The bill references to statutes repealed during the 2011 legislative session.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2012.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Obsolete Programs:* According to the Department, the 19 programs listed for elimination have had no staff or activity associated with the programs for the last few years. The elimination of the programs should have no fiscal impact.

*ISTEP Test:* Currently, the state must allow each student or the student's parent to inspect the following:

1. A copy of the essay questions and prompts used in assessing the student.
2. A copy of the student's scored essays.
3. A copy of the anchor papers and scoring rubrics used to score the student's essays.

The parent can also currently request a rescoring of the test.

Eliminating these options to review the test should reduce the cost of administering the test. When test questions and the rubrics associated with the questions are made public, the questions can not be used for several years, so more new questions must be developed each year. It is currently unknown how much might be saved if fewer new questions have to be developed annually. Allowing a school to request a rescoring only if there is evidence that the test score is not accurate should reduce some costs.

*Teacher of the Year:* Replacing the Ambassador for Education Program with provisions which allow a Teacher

of the Year to serve one year of professional leave with the Department of Education or a postsecondary educational institution should have no additional fiscal impact.

(Revised) *School Bus Inspection & Registration*: The bill changes the deadline for registration of a school bus that is not owned by a school corporation from July 29 to September 29 of each year. The same number of buses would be inspected but the State Police would have an additional month to do the inspection and document the certification in the State Police's School Bus Inspection Data Base for school buses that are not owned by a school corporation. The provision should have no fiscal impact. Approximately 14,000 school buses are inspected each year.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Criminal History Check*: The change should have no fiscal impact on schools. The employee under IC 20-26-5-10 is required to pay the cost of the required criminal history check.

**Background:** A national criminal history background check means the criminal history record system maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation based on fingerprint identification or any other method of positive identification. The cost of a national criminal history checks is about \$33 which is paid by the employee.

Under current law the required expanded criminal history check includes the national criminal background check along with the following:

1. A search of the records maintained by all counties in Indiana in which the individual who is the subject of the background check resided.
2. A search of the records maintained by all counties or similar governmental units in another state, if the individual who is the subject of the background check resided in another state.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Local schools and accredited nonpublic schools.

**Information Sources:** Ashley Gibson, Department of Education, 217-232-6618, State Police School Bus Inspection Program website, <http://www.in.gov/isp/2561.htm> .

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chuck Mayfield, 317-232-4825.